

except to a brother subaltern of equal callousness, who, on being asked by me whether Mouse Deer were sacred in that part of the world, replied 'What's a Mouse Deer?'

I have more recent evidence, however, for I saw a Mouse Deer in the Dhera Sagar block of the Lalitpur District in the end of March 1928. This is very close to districts where Mr. Champion states they exist, but still is in the Southern United Provinces.

As far as the Siwaliks are concerned I must plead guilty to a worse crime than a slip of the pen. I was talking to a well-known shooting enthusiast, who had spent many pleasant weeks in the Siwaliks. He made use of the expression that 'a morning walk in the Siwaliks might produce anything from a tiger to a mouse-deer,' and the phrase seemed as apt, and expressive of my own memories of my only visit to the Siwaliks, that I stole it and never checked its accuracy.

Mr. Champion has caught and convicted me.

FORT SANDEMAN,
January 18, 1930.

C. H. STOCKLEY,
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XVI.—NOTES ON THE 9TH EDITION OF 'RECORDS OF BIG GAME'.

On studying the 9th edition of Rowland Ward's *Records of Big Game* I have found a number of errors and inconsistencies introduced into this latest edition. As this most useful compilation is frequently consulted for purposes of reference, I think these inaccuracies should be marked down before they become ground for further error. The principal criticisms which I have to offer, and which refer to Indian game, are as follows.

(1) SWAMP DEER. (*Rucervus duvauceli*). p. 41.

The colour is described as 'bright rufous brown'. This would be applicable to the stag in the hot weather if 'light' were substituted for 'bright'. But most people see them in the cold weather, when the colour is a varying shade of rather dull brown.

(2) THAMIN.

On pages 45, 46 and 47, three 'species' of thamin have been formed from the former one. In addition to *Rucervus eldi* we now have *Rucervus thamin* and *R. platyceros*. *R. eldi* is given as the designation of the Manipur animal, the Burmese being *R. thamin*, and the Siamese *R. platyceros*. The Manipur beast is distinguished from the Burmese by having naked pasterns: surely a mere racial characteristic, and locally caused by the animal wearing off the hair by continuous existence in swamp. The Siamese 'species' is distinguished by having palmated horns: a characteristic found also in Burmese heads, and by no means universally in Siamese heads. Of seven heads which I examined on the Meping river, only two had palmation, one very little. The division of the thamin into three different species on such unsatisfactory grounds seems quite unjustified. Again we are informed that the thamin of Upper Burma belongs to a race called *R. thamin brucei*. This was

described by Oldfield Thomas from two heads which came from the same herd and were almost certainly the progeny of one master stag. They are not in the least typical of heads from Upper Burma and, in fact, are merely local aberrations. There are no constant characteristics distinguishing the thamin of Upper and Lower Burma.

(3) HOG-DEER. (*Cervus porcinus*). p. 57.

Under 'distribution' no mention is made of the Indus Valley, the distribution being given as 'throughout the Indo-Gangetic plain from the Punjab to Assam. . . .' This is certainly much too comprehensive. I have yet to hear of a specimen from the Punjab, and outside the swamps at the foot of the Himalayas, it is confined, in Northern India, to the islands of the lower Indus River.

(4) BLACKBUCK. (*Antilope cervicapra*). p. 218.

The head belonging to the Maharajah of Jind, and recorded under 'owner's measurements' as $32\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, I measured as $31\frac{3}{4}$ when the head was sent to the Society to be mounted. I cannot understand the difference. The head is more likely to have shrunk half an inch.

(5) THE SEISTAN GAZELLE. (*Gazella seistanica*). p. 224.

No mention is made of the females having horns, in contrast to the preceding and subsequent species, *G. yarkandensis* and *G. fuscifrons*.

(6) THE CHINKARA. (*Gazella bennetti*). pp. 224, 225.

The distribution, 'Peninsular India', must be a slip. This gazelle is also found all over Northern India and on both sides of the Indus. Contrary to the description given, the points of the horns turn in distinctly in many specimens from the west of the Indus. It is possible that there is a distinct race there.

(7) SEROW. (*Capricornis sumatrensis*). p. 321.

The astounding information is given that the head of the Kashmir Serow (here designated *C. s. humei*) is rufous brown. Having seen and shot many serow in Kashmir and the Chenab Valley, I emphatically contradict this statement. The Kashmir Serow has a black head, with a variable amount of white spots and patches, usually about the lips and throat.

I will also venture to assert, with absolute confidence, that the Kashmir and Chamba serows are identical, and that there are no grounds for separating the latter under the racial name of *Capricornis sumatrensis rodoni*.

Again, in Arakan, both black and bright rufous serows are found; the latter being a colour-phase which extends in a belt right across Upper Burma and is found occasionally in Assam, and even near Naini Tal.

No mention is made of the curious purplish bloom on Malay and Siamese serows,

(8) MARKHOR. (*Capra falconeri*). p. 341.

Col. A. B. Souter's record 65 inch head is illustrated as an Astor markhor. It was obtained on the North flank of the Kaj-i-Nag Range, and is not an Astor head.

It is very typical of the race to which it belongs, and is by no means like the typical Astor head.

(9) ASIATIC IBEX. (*Capra sibirica*). p. 343.

In enumerating the various alleged races of ibex, what is the distinction between the 'Balti Ibex (*C. s. wardi*)', 'the Himalayan Ibex (*C. s. skyn*) from the mountains to the northward of Kashmir', and 'the Gilgit race (*C. s. pedri*)'?

Looking at the map one would assume that Baltistan and Gilgit are both included under 'the mountains to the northward of Kashmir.'

In the list of heads on pages 344 and 345, the editors seem to have gone, geographically, still further astray; as, under 'Ladaki, Balti and Kashmiri races', they list heads from Gilgit, Chitral, the Pamirs, and Kashgar Mountains. This, to say the least of it, is inconsistent in the extreme.

The editors have given no distinguishing characteristic to guide the naturalist or sportsman to help him differentiate between these hypothetical races. It would appear that there are none.

(10) SIND IBEX. (*Capra hircus*). p. 351.

Heads from Mekran and the Taurus Range are classified both under *C. h. ægragus* and *C. h. blythi*. The editors would appear to have had the same difficulty in distinguishing these 'races' as with the Himalayan Ibex. They do not tell us what is the 'slight difference in the shape of the horns' which distinguishes them, and, if they have seen the wide variation in this respect which I have seen in a single herd, no wonder they are puzzled.

(11) THE BANTIN OR TSAINE. (*Bibos banteng*).

No mention is made of the great variety in colour to be met with in old bulls; although such variety is peculiar to this species alone.

I have seen in one area in Upper Burma, about 20 miles square, and in the same month, bulls of the following shades of colour:—khaki (oak-leaf), copper-beech leaf, french grey, buffalo blue, dark bay, chocolate. All of these were fully adult bulls. Major G. P. Evans has recorded three black bulls in the Chindwin Valley.

(12) THE SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS. (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*)
p. 440.

The rear horn of the specimen entered under 'owner's measurements', shot by A. S. Vernay, is shown as measuring 14 inches in length. As this specimen was a female, and had a front horn of only 6 inches in length, it is evident that the circumference of the front horn has been transposed to the wrong column. The longest rear horn on record is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Tiger. At last we have a good system of estimating the size of tigers from their skins, and the details given under 'area dimensions' on page 476 will do much to allay the craving for length which has led to such amazing records being claimed and

to skins being pegged out so as to look like the outer coverings of large, striped greyhounds.

'Area dimensions' are of scientific interest and value.

In making the above criticisms I will not, I hope, be accused of not crediting *Records of Big Game* with its immense value, both to Science and Sport.

It is only by such criticisms that one can arrive at true facts, and avoid a multiplication of species and races being admitted by default of criticism, which are based on insufficient and inconclusive material.

We owe (I write both as a naturalist and a sportsman) an incalculable debt of gratitude, both to the originators and the present editors of the book.

FORT SANDEMAN,
BALUCHISTAN,
March 8, 1930.

C. H. STOCKLEY,
Lt.-Col.

XVII.—NOTES ON THE MAMMALS OF BALUCHISTAN

A year's residence in the Zhob Valley, and a good deal of travelling in the surrounding country, has convinced me that Baluchistan remains the most interesting part of India, zoologically speaking.

The first thing that strikes one is the wide distribution of the larger mammals in spite of their comparative scarcity; and the number of species to be found, contrary to generally accepted ideas.

The Leopard, Wolf (*Canis lupus*), and Striped Hyaena are scattered all over the Baluchistan Agency, and, as these species are great travellers, this is not so remarkable.

But what is very notable is the number of localities where the Himalayan Black Bear occurs. I know of them personally on the Takht-i-Suliman massif, at the head of the Kuchmina Valley, and have reliable information of their occurrence in several of the ranges west of the Zhob River, at over 6,000 feet. Everywhere they are scarce, are shot at whenever seen, and it is wonderful how they continue to exist.

Orial (locally called 'gud') are scattered all over the district, are still fairly plentiful in spite of much shooting, and good rams are still to be met with fairly close to main roads. A very fine ram was shot recently near Sheghalu Post, west of the Zhob River, by an Indian Officer of the Zhob Militia. The horns measured $39\frac{1}{4}$ " right, and $38\frac{3}{4}$ " inches left, and are, I believe, the longest pair now in existence. Major Dodd's head of $41\frac{1}{2}$ ", shot by a Jemadar of the Wana Militia, was destroyed in Wana in 1919, and I believe that Major Taylor's $39\frac{1}{2}$ " inch head, picked off a ziarat in Waziristan, is also no longer in existence.

Straight-Horned Markhor are still to be found in many localities, but have been terribly shot down, and good heads are very hard to find. I have made an expedition to each of two formerly famous localities,—the Takht-i-Suliman and the Kuchmina Valley,—without seeing a single shootable head. The type of horn is very distinct from the different ranges as a rule,